

## **Senate Bill No. 169**

### **CHAPTER 14**

An act to amend Section 1246 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor March 29, 2006. Filed with  
Secretary of State March 29, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 169, Migden. Certified phlebotomy technicians.

Existing law requires an unlicensed person employed by a licensed clinical laboratory who performs venipuncture or skin puncture to be certified as a certified phlebotomy technician. However, existing law requires an unlicensed person who performs venipuncture or skin puncture who was employed by a clinical laboratory for the purposes of withdrawing blood or for clinical laboratory tests on or before April 2003, to comply with the certification requirement by April 2006.

This bill would extend the date for compliance with that certification requirement to January 1, 2007, provided that the application is submitted to the department by July 1, 2006.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1246 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1246. (a) Except as provided in subdivisions (b) and (c), and in Section 23158 of the Vehicle Code, an unlicensed person employed by a licensed clinical laboratory may perform venipuncture or skin puncture for the purpose of withdrawing blood or for clinical laboratory test purposes upon specific authorization from a licensed physician and surgeon provided that he or she meets both of the following requirements:

(1) He or she works under the supervision of a person licensed under this chapter or of a licensed physician and surgeon or of a licensed registered nurse. A person licensed under this chapter, a licensed physician or surgeon, or a registered nurse shall be physically available to be summoned to the scene of the venipuncture within five minutes during the performance of those procedures.

(2) He or she has been trained by a licensed physician and surgeon or by a clinical laboratory bioanalyst in the proper procedure to be employed

when withdrawing blood in accordance with training requirements established by the State Department of Health Services and has a statement signed by the instructing physician and surgeon or by the instructing clinical laboratory bioanalyst that the training has been successfully completed.

(b) (1) On and after the effective date of the regulations specified in paragraph (2), any unlicensed person employed by a clinical laboratory performing the duties described in this section shall possess a valid and current certification as a certified phlebotomy technician issued by the department. However, an unlicensed person employed by a clinical laboratory to perform these duties pursuant to subdivision (a) on that date shall have until January 1, 2007, to comply with this requirement, provided that he or she has submitted the application to the department on or before July 1, 2006.

(2) The department shall adopt regulations for certification by January 1, 2001, as a certified phlebotomy technician that shall include all of the following:

(A) The applicant shall hold a valid, current certification as a phlebotomist issued by a national accreditation agency approved by the department, and shall submit proof of that certification when applying for certification pursuant to this section.

(B) The applicant shall complete education, training, and experience requirements as specified by regulations that shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) At least 40 hours of didactic instruction.
- (ii) At least 40 hours of practical instruction.
- (iii) At least 50 successful venipunctures.

However, an applicant who has been performing these duties pursuant to subdivision (a) may be exempted from the requirements specified in clauses (ii) and (iii), and from 20 hours of the 40 hours of didactic instruction as specified in clause (i), if he or she has at least 1,040 hours of work experience, as specified in regulations adopted by the department.

It is the intent of the Legislature to permit persons performing these duties pursuant to subdivision (a) to use educational leave provided by their employers for purposes of meeting the requirements of this section.

(3) Each certified phlebotomy technician shall complete at least three hours per year or six hours every two years of continuing education or training. The department shall consider a variety of programs in determining the programs that meet the continuing education or training requirement.

(4) He or she has been found to be competent in phlebotomy by a licensed physician and surgeon or person licensed pursuant to this chapter.

(5) He or she works under the supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon, licensed registered nurse, or person licensed under this chapter, or the designee of a licensed physician and surgeon or the designee of a person licensed under this chapter.

(6) The department shall adopt regulations establishing standards for approving training programs designed to prepare applicants for certification pursuant to this section. The standards shall ensure that these programs meet the state's minimum education and training requirements for comparable programs.

(7) The department shall adopt regulations establishing standards for approving national accreditation agencies to administer certification examinations and tests pursuant to this section.

(8) The department shall charge fees for application for and renewal of the certificate authorized by this section of no more than twenty-five dollars (\$25).

(c) (1) (A) A certified phlebotomy technician may perform venipuncture or skin puncture to obtain a specimen for nondiagnostic tests assessing the health of an individual, for insurance purposes, provided that the technician works under the general supervision of a physician and surgeon licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000). The physician and surgeon may delegate the general supervision duties to a registered nurse or a person licensed under this chapter, but shall remain responsible for ensuring that all those duties and responsibilities are properly performed. The physician and surgeon shall make available to the department, upon request, records maintained documenting when a certified phlebotomy technician has performed venipuncture or skin puncture pursuant to this paragraph.

(B) As used in this paragraph, general supervision requires the supervisor of the technician to determine that the technician is competent to perform venipuncture or skin puncture prior to the technician's first blood withdrawal, and on an annual basis thereafter. The supervisor is also required to determine, on a monthly basis, that the technician complies with appropriate venipuncture or skin puncture policies and procedures approved by the medical director and required by state regulations. The supervisor, or another designated licensed physician and surgeon, registered nurse, or person licensed under this chapter, shall be available for consultation with the technician, either in person or through telephonic or electronic means, at the time of blood withdrawal.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who has been issued a certified phlebotomy technician certificate pursuant to this section may draw blood following policies and procedures approved by a physician and surgeon licensed under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 2000), appropriate to the location where the blood is being drawn and in accordance with state regulations. The blood collection shall be done at the request and in the presence of a peace officer for forensic purposes in a jail, law enforcement facility, or medical facility, with general supervision.

(B) As used in this paragraph, "general supervision" means that the supervisor of the technician is licensed under this code as a physician and surgeon, physician assistant, clinical laboratory bioanalyst, registered nurse, or clinical laboratory scientist, and reviews the competency of the

technician before the technician may perform blood withdrawals without direct supervision, and on an annual basis thereafter. The supervisor is also required to review the work of the technician at least once a month to ensure compliance with venipuncture policies, procedures, and regulations. The supervisor, or another person licensed under this code as a physician and surgeon, physician assistant, clinical laboratory bioanalyst, registered nurse, or clinical laboratory scientist, shall be accessible to the location where the technician is working to provide onsite, telephone, or electronic consultation, within 30 minutes when needed.

(d) The department may adopt regulations providing for the issuance of a certificate to an unlicensed person employed by a clinical laboratory authorizing only the performance of skin punctures for test purposes.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order for the residents of the state to avoid confronting delays in laboratory testing due to a shortage of certified phlebotomy technicians, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.